

## Notes from April 21, 2008 Task Force “Public Input” Meeting

By Marn Yee Lee

### Open Communication from the Public

Ev Shafrir

How will action be taken based on the public input received?

**Facilitator:** Linda Forsberg, Business and Internal Services Mgr, City MV

#### **Input:**

*Best guess at spelling.*

(Meeta) Student @ SJ State

Invasive plants – IVY. Homeowners should be educated on what to plant in their yard.

Energy: more education in schools for students (projects in HS – get them to know what’s happening). Workshops on the weekend to educate homeowners.

E-waste: Cupertino has a drive by Apple. Have city work with a corporation or organization to organize the drive.

Gray water: for watering lawn

Drivers should be more aware of bicyclists

Ev Shafrir

HOA – Windsor Locks, was president, now on landscape committee

1. Encourage cycling to downtown – parking is not easy – locking to parking meters, space in each parking structure, by supermarkets
2. Police should monitor and patrol bicycle trail
3. City program to remove/convert “non-green stoves” (gas-burning fireplace). County program used to exist.
4. Ban wood-burning fireplaces in new developments.
5. Ban leaf-blowers, if not reduce its usage. E.g. only once a month. Reduce emission, dust, particulate, emissions.
6. City should plant more trees. Arbor Day is not enough – HOA didn’t get response on request for trees. @ parking lots, city structures, in new developments. # trees per sq ft built.
7. Outdoor heaters on Castro – how to reduce usage? “we are heating the planet”. Don’t allow before certain date, e.g. June 1<sup>st</sup>.
8. Measurement – if you can’t measure it you can’t control it
9. Help from cities to force HOAs to increase certain fees/fines on unsustainable practices (e.g. pesticide, pond water)
10. Technology to look into our garbage – weigh it

Kevin Karney, resident since 1991

Cap-and-trade – define some rules. Have Google write an app to keep track of the details.

Jesse Craven, California Rengstorff, resident for 6 years

Landscape maintenance of properties

Has stopped using gas leaf blower, instead raking or sweeping. Would like to see a ban on it.

Need more volunteers in MV Trees – promote awareness of this program. A lot of coordination needed to plant a new tree in MV. Currently can't plant trees unless a city worker is with them.

#### Mark

1. Frequency and location of garbage vs. recycling bins
2. Upfront disposal fee – e.g. fridge – during purchase – then use this amount to fund programs that handle disposal

#### Leila Forouhi – California St.

##### Landscaping

Sustainable change needs to start from ground up

Funding should go to improving Stevens Creek Trail – to protect local watershed.

Use native plants in landscaping to help reduce water usage and local ecology.

A big difference in the environment between downtown area and other areas – improve environments for where lower income people live.

Coyote Valley development – at conflict with city's green vision.

Transportation:

- SJ – alternative fuel infrastructure
- MV has one B20 station
- SJ – green fleet policy – what is city's policy?

Community gardens to create more local food supply – e.g. vacant land → community garden, concrete → plantable space

SC Habitat Conservation plan – how does City of MV fit in to it?

Alley ways – lots of packaging at business levels

#### Bruce England

Waive 3 minute limit

#### Email comments:

1. Ban styrofoam take-out containers and plastic utensils. City should negotiate reasonable contracts with bio-degradable utensils.
2. Fines for non-compliance of recycling
3. Community compost site
4. Billboard materials – require to be recycled or donated
5. Solar program 1-2x / year – people are able to afford it
6. Tax break – property tax cut for clean car purchases

#### #

Food waste to get out of waste stream. Waste --> landfill – methane – climate change.

Waste characterization data? San Jose has it.

#### Harvio Perez

Farmer's Market – bikeability outreach – city promotes this, annual event?

Businesses give incentive to people who cycle to downtown event?

City's involvement with local schools to educate about sustainability and waste

Involvement with all socio-economic – need to see more brown and black faces at sustainability meetings

Old tree removal due to bureaucratic issues (e.g. property line)?

Free bags?

#### Esperanza Sanz

Env impact on the city – lack of information out there

Library doesn't have much env issue program. Leverage central meeting places like this to provide information on how to become more sustainable.

Plastic bags @ Farmers Market

Lack of compostable bins around even though we can compost certain materials

SV Toxics Coalition – would like to connect with the TF.

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Billing for water, sewage, garbage – disclose more info – e.g. annual report that summarizes how much you used the whole year! Increases personal accountability.

Create a permanent commission on sustainability given equal weight – we will establish a leadership role.

Jamil Shaikh

Owns a laundromat (98% washers efficient, recycling, lighting) 400 Moffett Blvd.

However, city does not allow clothes line.

Energy efficient equipments – get a lot of rebate from PG&E but not city. City should package all the information together to help businesses go green.

Involved with sust for a long time. In Built Env group.

Green residential building code: update the city's code to be more supportive of it

E-waste: CFL disposal esp for businesses

Reward people for doing the right thing (biz, homeowner, and renters).

#

13,000 vehicles

141 miles of surface street

Cindy Yee

Bikeability, walkability

Need a pedestrian advocate on the Bike, Transit, Walk Committee

Water WG – Steve Bishop

Storm water

Water availability

Water toxicity

Energy WG

SMUD (Sacramento Muni Utility District) Solar Shares – *renters* can buy a portion of the array that matches their energy usage – renters get all the benefits – e.g. time of use rate

Mt View as prototype site for Google RE<C initiative

Non-solar electricity usage is taxed by the city but not solar (?)